

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:333

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003

PREVALENCE OF T.B.

NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to a WHO report released recently more than 4.5 million people in India are suffering from Tuberculosis (TB), the highest number of T.B. cases reported in the world;
- (b) if so, whether 1.8 million new cases are detected every year in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefore;
- (d) whether the WHO has blamed India's healthcare sector as 'underfunded' and stated that 'unless both public and private doctors participate, the disease will continue to spread';
- (e) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce a new system of treatment of T.B.; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 333 FOR 13.8.2003

Yes, Sir. India accounts for nearly 1/3 of global TB burden. It is estimated that about 2 million new TB cases are occurring every year in the country out of which about 1.2 million new TB cases are detected and put on treatment under the National TB Control Programme. Rest of the cases report to the private sector. The incidence of TB in India estimated by WHO is lower than the rate of incidence in many high burden countries but due to the large population size in India the actual number of patients in the country is larger.

There are adequate funds for implementation of Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP).

To control the disease, National TB Control Programme is in operation in the country since 1962. This could not achieve the desired results. Therefore, Revised National TB Control Programme, widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented in a phased manner, with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. Diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead of by X-ray helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have been decentralized and strengthened. Drugs are provided under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Drugs are provided free of cost in patient-wise boxes.

The project districts have reported a cure rate of more than 80% which means more than 8 out of every 10 patients diagnosed and put on treatment under revised strategy are successfully treated. This is double that of the earlier programme.

To make the programme more accessible to larger segments of the population, and to supplement the Government efforts in this direction, emphasis is being given to also involve medical colleges, all general hospitals, private practitioners and NGOs in the programme. DOTS coverage is being rapidly expanded in the country. From 20 million coverage in 1998, about 700 million population has been covered at present. It is envisaged to cover 850 million population by 2004 and the entire country by 2005 under the revised strategy.